

The Pine Rockland Working Group presents:

Pine Rockland Conference 2010

“Consequences of Fragmentation”

Field Trip February 10th

Conference February 11th

Fire Management Decision Making Workshop February 12th

Private Lands Management Workshop February 13th

Miami, Florida

Conference Sponsors and Organizing Committee: Everglades National Park, The Nature Conservancy, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Institute for Regional Conservation, and Miami-Dade County.

Introduction: The mission of the Pine Rockland Working Group (PRWG) is to maintain and restore the pine rockland natural community, its associated species and the natural processes, most notably fire, upon which they all depend. Through this collaborative, interdisciplinary, international effort, the PRWG seeks to increase basic understanding of the ecosystem and appropriate management practices by identifying, obtaining support for, and communicating the results of new research and coordinated monitoring efforts.

Conference Purpose: The purpose of this conference is to bring together the members of the PRWG and other individuals or groups that have an interest in pine rockland and related natural communities. This conference is a continuation of the collaborative efforts begun in February 2004 with the “William B. Robertson, Jr., Memorial Pineland Fire Ecology and Management Workshop” and continued with the “Pine Rockland Conference 2006: Bridging the Gaps between Florida and the Bahamas” and the “Pine Rockland Conference 2008: Rockland Forests in a Changing World.”

Who Should Attend?: The conference encourages participation from scientists, educators, managers, planners, policy makers, naturalists, students and anyone else involved in planning, conservation, restoration, tourism, and interpretation of the pine rockland ecosystem in South Florida, the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos.

Pine Rockland Conference 2010: Preliminary Schedule

Feb. 10 (Wed.) Field Trip to eastern Miami-Dade County Pine Forest Patches

Afternoon field trip begins at 1 p.m. Location to be determined.

Feb. 11 (Thrs.) Pine Rockland Conference at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Morning Introductions, presentations and discussions

Mid day Lunch at Fairchild

Afternoon Presentations and discussions

Early Eve. Poster session and reception with complimentary appetizers and bar

Feb. 12 (Fri.) Pine Rockland Fire Management Decision Making Workshop

The workshop will run from approximately 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Fairchild.

Pine rockland managers are faced with a variety of complex decisions. Those involving fire - from setting management goals to identifying a long-term fire regime for the managed area and implementing site specific management actions that collectively help achieve goals – are some of the most challenging. Participants in this workshop will help polish a draft conceptual ecological model for pine rockland, identifying likely ecological outcomes of a range of fire-related actions. They will also take part in the design of a structured decision-making and adaptive management framework which leads to ecologically and socially appropriate approaches to fire management.

Feb. 13 (Sat.) Pine Rockland Private Landowners' Workshop

Specific timing and locations to be determined.

Owners of pine rockland forests are invited to a workshop hosted by The Institute for Regional Conservation. The workshop will be directed towards assisting private landowners in managing their forests, covering biological, financial, and bureaucratic topics. Landowners will be trained in the identification of exotic plant species that should be eliminated, rare plant species that should be protected, and the use of herbicides to control exotic and nuisance plant species. The workshop will also cover the use of prescribed fire, landowner assistance programs, government permit requirements, and tax relief options.

Pine Rockland Conference 2010: Call for Abstracts

by January 8th, 2010

The Conference Organizing Committee invites submissions of abstracts for oral presentations to be given during the day of February 11th and for posters to be presented that same evening during the reception/poster session. Abstract submissions will be used to select oral presentations and organize the oral and poster presentation sessions.

Oral presentations on the subjects of fragmentation and interactions between fire and invasive exotics species are strongly encouraged and will be given preference in the selection process. However, any pine rockland-oriented subject may be submitted and all will be considered. An effort will be made to include as many oral presentations as possible but it is anticipated that there will be more abstracts than there is time available. There will be no limit on the number of posters. Typical oral presentations should be limited to 15 minutes in duration with an additional 5 minutes for questions.

Please specify your preference for an oral presentation, a poster, or your willingness to present in either format.

Submit abstracts as MSWORD documents using Times New Roman font in 12-point font size.

Please provide:

1. Presentation/Poster Title
2. Presenter/Author(s) Name(s)
3. Organization/Affiliation
4. Email Address
5. Daytime Telephone Number
6. Abstract Body (not to exceed 300 words)

Abstract submissions should be directed to Aerin Land at Everglades National Park via email to aerin_land@nps.gov by Jan. 8th, 2010. Aerin may be reached by telephone at (305) 242 7052.

Conference Registration

Online registration instructions will be emailed to all current members of the Pine Rockland Working Group by mid-October, 2009. If you are not already a member of the group, please send an email to Chris Bergh, cbergh@tnc.org and you will be added to the email distribution list.